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Objection Deadline: January 10, 2024

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for the Substantively Consolidated SIPA Liquidation  
of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC  
and the Chapter 7 Estate of Bernard L. Madoff*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION  
CORPORATION,

Plaintiff-Applicant,

v.

BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT  
SECURITIES LLC,

Defendant.

In re:

BERNARD L. MADOFF,

Debtor.

Adv. Pro. No. 08-01789 (CGM)

SIPA Liquidation

(Substantively Consolidated)

**MOTION FOR AN ORDER APPROVING FIFTEENTH ALLOCATION OF  
PROPERTY TO THE FUND OF CUSTOMER PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING  
FIFTEENTH INTERIM DISTRIBUTION TO CUSTOMERS**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	2
II. THE LIQUIDATION PROCEEDING .....	6
III. ALLOCATION OF PROPERTY & DISTRIBUTION SCHEME UNDER SIPA .....	8
A. Allocation of Property.....	8
B. Distributions Under SIPA .....	10
C. Allocation of Assets to the Customer Fund and Related Reserves.....	11
i. Assets in Trustee’s Possession as of October 31, 2023 .....	14
ii. Recoveries to the BLMIS Estate Since the Fourteenth Allocation and Fourteenth Interim Distribution .....	15
D. Determination of Allowable Net Equity Claims & Related Reserves .....	15
IV. CALCULATION OF PRO RATA SHARE OF CUSTOMER FUND FOR FIFTEENTH ALLOCATION AND FIFTEENTH INTERIM DISTRIBUTION.....	16
A. No Interim Distribution for General Estate Claims .....	18
V. MISCELLANEOUS .....	19
A. Notice .....	19
B. Record Date .....	19
VI. CONCLUSION.....	20

TO THE HONORABLE CECELIA G. MORRIS,  
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE:

Irving H. Picard, as trustee (“Trustee”) for the liquidation of the business of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC (“BLMIS”) under the Securities Investor Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 78aaa *et seq.* (“SIPA”),<sup>1</sup> and the substantively consolidated Chapter 7 case of Bernard L. Madoff (“Madoff”) (collectively, “Debtor”), respectfully submits this motion (the “Motion”) pursuant to SIPA §§ 78lll(4), 78fff(a)(1)(B), 78fff-2(b), and 78fff-2(c)(1), and Rule 9013 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”) seeking entry of an order (1) approving the fifteenth allocation of property (“Fifteenth Allocation”) to the fund of customer property (“Customer Fund”); and (2) authorizing a fifteenth pro rata interim distribution (“Fifteenth Interim Distribution”) of at least \$45,230,109.57 to customers whose claims for customer protection under SIPA have been allowed for amounts exceeding the SIPA statutory advance limits and which have not already been fully satisfied by the first through fourteenth pro rata interim distributions. This Court has jurisdiction over this Motion pursuant to SIPA §§ 78eee(b)(2), 78eee(b)(4), 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334, and Bankruptcy Rule 5005. This Motion is based upon the law set forth below as well as the facts set forth in the affidavit of Vineet Sehgal (“Sehgal Aff.”), filed herewith. In support of this Motion, the Trustee represents as follows:

**I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. In order to protect customers of an insolvent broker-dealer such as BLMIS, Congress established a statutory framework pursuant to which customers of a debtor in a SIPA liquidation are entitled to preferential treatment in the distribution of assets from a debtor’s estate. The mechanism by which customers receive preferred treatment is through the creation of a fund

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<sup>1</sup> For convenience, subsequent references to sections of the Act shall follow the form: “SIPA § \_\_.”

of “customer property” as defined in SIPA § 78fff(4), which is distinct from a debtor’s general estate. Customers holding allowable claims are entitled to share pro rata in the Customer Fund based on each customer’s “net equity” as of the filing date, to the exclusion of general creditors. SIPA § 78fff-2(c).

2. In order to make distributions from the Customer Fund, the Trustee must determine or be able to sufficiently estimate: (a) the total value of customer property available for distribution, or the “numerator” (including reserves for disputed recoveries), and (b) the total net equity of all allowed claims, or the “denominator” (including reserves for disputed claims). The Trustee calculates reserve amounts on a “worst-case” basis, such that the ultimate resolution of disputed amounts will not adversely affect any customers’ allowed or disputed net equity distributions.

3. In this case, for purposes of determining each customer’s “net equity,” the Trustee credited the amount of cash deposited by the customer into his BLMIS account, less any amounts already withdrawn from that BLMIS customer account (the “cash in, cash out method” or the “Trustee’s Net Investment Method”). Some claimants argued that the Trustee was required to allow customer claims in the amounts shown on the November 30, 2008 customer statements (the “Last Statement Method,” creating the “Net Equity Dispute”). Litigation over the Net Equity Dispute proceeded through this Court,<sup>2</sup> the Second Circuit,<sup>3</sup> and the Supreme Court of the United States (the “Supreme Court”).<sup>4</sup> The Trustee’s Net Investment Method was upheld.

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<sup>2</sup> *Sec. Inv’r Prot. Corp. v. Bernard L. Madoff Inv. Sec. LLC (In re Bernard L. Madoff Inv. Sec. LLC)*, 424 B.R. 122 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010).

<sup>3</sup> *In re Bernard L. Madoff Inv. Sec. LLC*, 654 F.3d 229 (2d Cir. 2011) (the “Net Equity Decision”).

<sup>4</sup> Two petitions for writ of certiorari were denied by the Supreme Court of the United States on June 25, 2012. *Sec. Inv’r Prot. Corp. v. Bernard L. Madoff Inv. Sec., LLC (In re Bernard L. Madoff Inv. Sec., LLC)*, 424 B.R. 122 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010), *aff’d and reh’g and reh’g en banc denied*, 654 F.3d 229 (2d Cir. 2011), *cert. denied sub nom. Ryan v. Picard*, 133 S.Ct. 24 (2012); *Sec. Inv’r Prot. Corp. v. Bernard L. Madoff Inv. Sec. LLC (In re Bernard L. Madoff*

4. The Trustee has successfully recovered approximately \$14.608 billion through October 31, 2023 for the benefit of all BLMIS customers with allowed claims.<sup>5</sup>

5. The Trustee previously filed fourteen motions seeking entry of orders approving allocations of property to the Customer Fund and authorizing pro rata interim distributions of Customer Property. This Court entered orders approving those motions:

No. of Distribution	Date of Distribution	Amount Allocated	Amount Distributed	Percentage Distributed	ECF No. for Motion	ECF No. for Order
1	10/5/2011	\$2.618 billion	\$888.186 million	4.602%	4048	4217
2	9/19/2012	\$5.501 billion	\$6.458 billion	33.556%	4930	4997
3	3/29/2013	\$1.198 billion	\$904.368 million	4.721%	5230	5271
4	5/5/2014	\$477.504 million	\$608.385 million	3.180%	6024	6340
5	2/6/2015	\$756.538 million <sup>6</sup>	\$524.309 million	2.743%	8860	9014
6	12/4/2015	\$345.472 million <sup>7</sup>	\$1.573 billion	8.262%	9807 and 11834	12066
7	6/30/2016	\$247.013 million	\$247.715 million	1.305%	13405	13512
8	2/2/2017	\$342.322 million	\$327.702 million	1.729%	14662	14836
9	2/22/2018	\$1.303 billion	\$719.297 million	3.806%	17033	17195
10	2/22/2019	\$515.974 million	\$514.199 million	2.729%	18295	18398
11	2/28/2020	\$988.770 million	\$370.791 million	1.975%	19226	19245

Inv. Sec., LLC), 424 B.R. 122 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010), *aff'd and reh'g and reh'g en banc denied*, 654 F.3d 229 (2d Cir. 2011), *cert. denied sub nom. Velvel v. Picard*, 133 S.Ct. 25 (2012). A third petition for writ of certiorari was dismissed. *Sec. Inv'r Prot. Corp. v. Bernard L. Madoff Inv. Sec., LLC (In re Bernard L. Madoff Inv. Sec., LLC)*, 424 B.R. 122 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2010), *aff'd and reh'g and reh'g en banc denied*, 654 F.3d 229 (2d Cir. 2011), *cert. dismissed sub nom. Sterling Equities Assocs. v. Picard*, 132 S.Ct. 2712 (2012).

<sup>5</sup> Over \$20 billion of principal was lost in the Ponzi scheme in total. Of the \$20 billion, approximately \$17.5 billion of principal was lost by those who filed claims.

<sup>6</sup> The total amount allocated in the Fifth Allocation Motion was \$704,395,951.58. Between the filing of that motion and the Fifth Interim Distribution date, an additional \$52,142,279.87 was recovered and included in the numerator.

<sup>7</sup> This represents the amount allocated to the Customer Fund in the Supplemental Sixth Allocation and Sixth Interim Distribution Motion filed on October 20, 2015. The original Sixth Allocation and Sixth Interim Motion filed on April 15, 2015 did not allocate any additional recoveries to the Customer Fund; the Trustee simply re-allocated \$1,448,717,625.26 of funds that had previously been allocated to the Customer Fund for the Time-Based Damages Reserve.

12	2/26/2021	\$74.325 million	\$232.373 million	1.240%	20066	20209
13	2/25/2022	\$128.570 million	\$113.047 million	0.604%	20963	21036
14	2/24/2023	\$44.229 million	\$49.553 million	0.265%	22697	22819

6. The Trustee stands ready to make a fifteenth significant distribution to customers with allowed claims—approximately 0.242% on each allowed claim. The practical effect of this determination is to permit a fifteenth interim distribution to customers whose claims have not been fully satisfied because the net equity of their respective accounts as of the Filing Date<sup>8</sup> exceeded the statutory SIPA protection limit of \$500,000 and were not satisfied by the First through Fourteenth Interim Distributions.

7. Thus, by way of this Motion, the Trustee seeks to distribute at least \$45,230,109.57 (with an additional \$2,637,313.78 available for distribution to certain “net loser” accounts in litigation, if the claims relating to their accounts become allowed prior to the time the distribution is made, or reserved, if not yet allowed).<sup>9</sup> The Fifteenth Interim Distribution, when combined with the First through Fourteenth Interim Distributions, will provide no less than 70.959% of each customer’s allowed claim amount, plus the SIPC advance of up to \$500,000. The proposed distribution will be paid on claims relating to 772 BLMIS accounts. The average payment amount to those 772 BLMIS accounts will be \$58,588.22. Eight payments will go to claimants who qualified for hardship status under the Trustee’s claims Hardship Program.<sup>10</sup> If approved, and

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<sup>8</sup> In this case, the Filing Date is the date on which the Securities and Exchange Commission commenced its suit against BLMIS, December 11, 2008, which resulted in the appointment of a receiver for the firm. *See* SIPA § 78lll(7)(B).

<sup>9</sup> If all of these “net loser” accounts were allowed prior to the distribution, the total distribution to claimants would be approximately \$47.867 million (\$47,867,423.35 ), based on the net equity amount for deemed determined accounts.

<sup>10</sup> The Hardship Program was officially terminated and is no longer accepting applications.

when combined with the SIPC payment and the amounts from the First through Fourteenth Interim Distributions, 1,517 accounts (relating to 1,752 claims) will be fully satisfied (all accounts with a net equity of up to \$1,707,339.85).

8. The proposed Fifteenth Allocation and Fifteenth Interim Distribution are interim in nature. The Trustee anticipates recovering additional assets through litigation and settlements. Final resolution of certain disputes will permit the Trustee to reduce the reserves he is required to maintain, which will allow him to make additional distributions to customers in the future. The Trustee will seek authorization for these further allocations and distributions upon the recovery of additional funds and the resolution of significant disputes.<sup>11</sup>

## **II. THE LIQUIDATION PROCEEDING**

9. Section 78fff(b) of SIPA provides that a SIPA liquidation proceeding “shall be conducted in accordance with, and as though it were being conducted under chapters 1, 3 and 5 and subchapters I and II of chapter 7 of title 11” to the extent these provisions are consistent with SIPA.

10. SIPA affords special protection to “customers,” as defined in SIPA § 78lll(2), who receive preferential treatment by having their claims satisfied ahead of general creditors. *See In re Adler Coleman Clearing Corp.*, 198 B.R. 70, 71 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1996) (recognizing that a “person whose claim against the debtor qualifies as a ‘customer claim’ is entitled to preferential treatment”); *In re Hanover Square Sec.*, 55 B.R. 235, 237 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1985) (“[a]ffording customer status confers preferential treatment”). The amounts owed to each customer are determined by valuing his or her “net equity,” defined in SIPA § 78lll(11), as of the Filing Date.

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<sup>11</sup> The Trustee seeks permission to include in the Fifteenth Interim Distribution those claims that are allowed between the time an order is entered on this Motion and the date of the Fifteenth Interim Distribution.

11. To date, the Trustee has received 16,521 customer claims and determined 16,510 of those claims. (Sehgal Aff. ¶ 4). The remaining 11 claims are discussed in Paragraph 12 below. To date, the Trustee has allowed 2,655 claims, and SIPC has advanced \$849,868,412.47 to the Trustee to pay these claims. (*Id.*). To date, the allowed claims total approximately \$19.494 billion. (*Id.*). The Trustee denied 2,692 claims by customers who had accounts with BLMIS and 10,734 claims purporting to be customer claims but were in fact claims filed on behalf of claimants without an account at BLMIS. Twelve other claims were filed that asserted no claim. Another 417 claims have been withdrawn. (*Id.*).

12. Eleven claims (relating to 7 accounts) are currently categorized as “deemed determined,” meaning that the Trustee has instituted litigation against those claimants. (*Id.* ¶ 5). The complaints filed by the Trustee in those litigations set forth the express grounds for disallowance of customer claims under section 502(d) of the Bankruptcy Code. Accordingly, such claims will not be allowed until the avoidance action is resolved by settlement or otherwise and any judgment rendered against the claimant in the avoidance action is satisfied.

13. To date, the Trustee has received 428 timely and 22 untimely filed secured priority and unsecured non-priority general creditor claims totaling approximately \$1.7 billion. The claimants include vendors, taxing authorities, employees, and customers filing claims on non-customer proof of claim forms. Of these 450 claims, 95 are general creditor claims and 49 are broker-dealer claims, which together total approximately \$265 million of the \$1.7 billion.<sup>12</sup> (*Id.* ¶ 6). If the Trustee is able to fully satisfy the net equity claims of the BLMIS customers, any funds

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<sup>12</sup> The 450 secured, priority, and non-priority general claims are explicit “general creditor” claims, such as vendor and service claims. (Sehgal Aff. ¶ 6). They do not include “customer” claims, even though each “customer” claim—both those allowed and denied—has a “general creditor” component. All BLMIS creditors, including customers whose claims were allowed, customers whose claims were denied, and general creditors, may have claims as general creditors against BLMIS for misrepresentation, fraud, and breach of contract (assuming they filed claims). Customers who filed customer claims need not have specifically filed claims as general creditors to protect such rights.



remaining will be allocated to the general estate and distributed in the order of priority established in Bankruptcy Code § 726 and SIPA § 78fff(e). All BLMIS customers who filed claims—whether their net equity customer claims were allowed or denied—may be deemed to be general creditors of the BLMIS estate. The Trustee is working diligently on behalf of all creditors and will seek to satisfy all creditor claims.

14. 1,733 docketed objections have been filed to the Trustee’s claims determinations relating to 3,253 claims, which have been, and will continue to be, noticed for hearing as appropriate. (*Id.* ¶ 7). These 1,733 objections relate to 699 BLMIS accounts. (*Id.*). The objections raise various issues, including the proper interpretation of “net equity” (now resolved), the right to interest or time value of money (now resolved), and whether the Trustee’s calculation of allowed claims amounts are correct. To date, 1,714 of the 1,733 docketed objections have been fully resolved. Nineteen objections are still subject to court review.

### **III. ALLOCATION OF PROPERTY & DISTRIBUTION SCHEME UNDER SIPA**

#### **A. Allocation of Property**

15. SIPA sets forth a bipartite statutory framework that gives customers priority over general creditors of the broker-dealer. Pursuant to SIPA § 78fff-2(c)(1)(B), all customers with allowed claims share ratably in the fund of customer property. Pursuant to SIPA § 78fff-2(c), general creditors and customers, to the extent of their respective unsatisfied net equities, share in any general estate. Estate property not allocable to the fund of customer property is distributed in the order of priority established in section 726 of the Bankruptcy Code. SIPA § 78fff(e). Any property allocated to the fund of customer property that is not necessary to satisfy customer and other priority claims will become part of the general estate. SIPA § 78fff-2(c).

16. According to SIPA § 78lll(4), “customer property” consists of “cash and securities . . . at any time received, acquired, or held by or for the account of a debtor from or for the

securities accounts of a customer, and the proceeds of any such property transferred by the debtor, including property unlawfully converted.”

17. Among the assets that comprise “customer property” are “any other property of the debtor which, upon compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations, would have been set aside or held for the benefit of customers . . .” SIPA § 78lll(4)(D). Under SIPA § 78lll(4)(D), a trustee is permitted to look to the property of the debtor to rectify the actions taken by the debtor that resulted in a shortfall in customer property. *See Ferris, Baker, Watts v. Stephenson (In re MJK Clearing, Inc.)*, 286 B.R. 109, 132 (Bankr. D. Minn. 2002) (“Application of the plain meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 78lll(4)(D) provides a means to rectify any actions taken by, or with respect to, the debtor, that results in such a shortfall. Thus, if the debtor failed to set aside or hold for the benefit of customers sufficient property, 15 U.S.C. § 78lll(4)(D) would require the trustee to correct the debtor’s error.”).

18. Thus, if a trustee determines that there is a shortfall in assets such that customer property is insufficient to satisfy net equity claims, then he may look to other assets of the debtor and allocate property to the fund of customer property.

19. SIPA liquidations generally take a broad and inclusive customer-related approach to the allocation of property. For example, in *In re Park South Securities, LLC*, 99% of the debtor’s estate was allocated to customer property. *See* Order, No. 03-08024A (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Oct. 30, 2008) (ECF No. 201).<sup>13</sup> Consistent with prior liquidations, the Trustee expects to allocate

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<sup>13</sup> *Accord SIPC v. Lehman Bros., Inc.*, Adv. Pro. No. 08-01420, Motion for Order Approving Allocation of Property of the Estate at 27-28, n.33 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Oct. 5, 2009) (ECF No. 1866) (allocating “most” of debtor’s assets to customer property); *In re Vision Inv. Grp., Inc.*, Adv. Pro. No. 97-1035B, Order Approving Third and Final Report and Final Accounting of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (Bankr. W.D.N.Y. Dec. 13, 2005) (allocating 95% of debtor’s estate to customer property); *In re Klein Maus & Shire, Inc.*, Adv. Pro. No. 00-8193A, Order Approving Trustee’s Final Report and Account, Approving Allocation of Property and Distribution of Fund of Customer Property, Finding of No Distribution to General Creditors (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Dec. 15, 2004) (allocating 99% of debtor’s estate to customer property); *In re MJK Clearing*, 286 B.R. at 132 (allocating 100% the debtor’s assets as customer property); *In re A.R. Baron & Co., Inc.*, Order Approving Final Report and Account and Related Relief,

the vast majority of the BLMIS estate to the Customer Fund, inasmuch as here, recovered property either belonged to customers or was derived from the misuse of customer property.

**B. Distributions Under SIPA**

20. The SIPA distribution scheme, while complex, can be distilled to a simple equation. Each customer is entitled to his or her pro rata share of customer property. To determine the percentage that each allowed customer will receive from the fund of customer property in an interim distribution, the aggregate amount collected to date by the Trustee and allocated to customer property is divided by the aggregate amount of net equity claims allowable by the Trustee. The percentage result is then to be applied to each net equity claim to determine a customer's pro rata share. The equation is as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Fund of Customer Property ("Numerator")}}{\text{Allowable Customer Net Equity Claims ("Denominator")}} = \text{Customer Pro Rata Share}$$

21. SIPA § 78fff-2(c)(1) establishes the order of distribution of customer property. The second and third priorities of distribution are relevant here. The second priority is to distribute customer property among customers based on their filing date net equities. SIPA § 78fff-2(c)(1)(B). The third priority is to distribute customer property to SIPC as subrogee. SIPA § 78fff-2(c)(1)(C). Thereafter, any customer property remaining becomes part of the general estate.

22. The amount advanced by SIPC to the Trustee in full or partial satisfaction of a customer claim is based on the difference between the customer's net equity and his share of customer property, subject to the \$500,000 limit of SIPA's statutory protection. The SIPC advance does not reduce the customer's net equity or his claim against customer property. If the

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Adv. Pro. No. 96-8831A (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Feb. 10, 2004) (allocating 99% of the debtor's assets to customer property); *In re Hanover, Sterling & Co.*, Adv. Pro. No. 96-8396A, Order Approving Trustee's Final Report and Account, Approving Allocation of Property and Distribution of the Fund of Customer Property (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Aug. 21, 2002) (allocating 75% of debtor's estate to customer property).

sum of the amount of a customer's SIPC advance and any subsequent distribution of customer property exceeds the customer's net equity, SIPC has the right to recoup its advance from the excess. In effect, SIPC becomes subrogated to the claims of customers to the extent it has made advances but cannot seek recovery from customer property as to any individual customer until the customer has been fully satisfied. SIPA §§ 78fff-3(a), 78fff-2(c)(1).

**C. Allocation of Assets to the Customer Fund and Related Reserves**

23. As the Court previously found in its Net Equity Decision, and as numerous courts in civil and criminal proceedings have also found, Madoff did not engage in securities trading on behalf of BLMIS customers. Madoff used customer funds to support operations and fulfill requests for redemptions to perpetuate a Ponzi scheme. Thus, payment of "profits" to any one customer in fact came from another customer's deposit of funds. In essence, all of the funds withdrawn by BLMIS customers were simply other people's money.

24. BLMIS had an obligation to set aside sufficient assets to cover its statutory obligations to customers. *See* Securities Exchange Act Rule 15c3-3, 17 C.F.R. § 240.15c3-3.<sup>14</sup> At this time, the assets of BLMIS and Madoff are insufficient to cover those obligations.

25. For these reasons, and because it is not uncommon for almost all property available to a broker-dealer to be deemed "customer property," the Trustee seeks the Court's approval to allocate to the Customer Fund virtually all cash and cash equivalents currently in his possession

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<sup>14</sup> SIPA's definitional paragraphs were amended in 1978 to incorporate in the "customer property" definition any other property of the debtor's estate which, upon compliance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations, would have been set aside or held for the benefit of customers. Thus, to the extent that prior to the Filing Date BLMIS failed to maintain cash and securities in compliance with the Net Capital Rule issued by the SEC (Rule 15c3-1), as affected by the Customer Protection Rule (Rule 15c3-3) (both issued pursuant to the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78o(c)(3)(A)), the Trustee is required to allocate property as necessary to remedy such non-compliance. The Customer Protection Rule effectively requires that a broker-dealer maintain control of all property that would have to be delivered to customers in the event of a liquidation: either the securities themselves or their value in the form of cash (or equivalents), and cash sufficient to pay net cash obligations to customers.

that was not previously allocated -- \$66,689,750.89. ECF Nos. 4217, 4997, 5271, 6340, 9014, 12066, 13512, 14836, 17195 and 18398; *see also First Fed. Sav. & Loan Assoc. of Lincoln v. Bevill, Bresler & Schulman, Inc. (In re Bevill, Bresler & Schulman, Inc.)*, 59 B.R. 353, 362-66 (D.N.J. 1986) (describing and approving SIPA allocation and distribution scheme similar to that proposed by Trustee).

26. The Trustee previously sought and obtained approval to allocate the following amounts to the Customer Fund:

No. of Allocation	Amount Allocated	Percentage Distributed	ECF No. for Motion	ECF No. for Order
1	\$2.618 billion	4.602%	4048	4217
2	\$5.501 billion	33.556%	4930	4997
3	\$1.198 billion	4.721%	5230	5271
4	\$477.504 million	3.180%	6024	6340
5	\$756.538 million <sup>15</sup>	2.743%	8860	9014
6	\$345.472 million <sup>16</sup>	8.262%	9807 and 11834	12066
7	\$247.013 million	1.305%	13405	13512
8	\$342.322 million	1.729%	14662	14836
9	\$1.303 billion	3.806%	17033	17195
10	\$515.974 million	2.729%	18295	18398
11	\$988.770 million	1.975%	19226	19245
12	\$74.325 million	1.240%	20066	20209
13	\$128.570 million	0.604%	20963	21036
14	\$44.229 million	0.265%	22697	22819

27. The amounts previously distributed as outlined in each of the First through Fourteenth Allocation Motions change as additional accounts are determined. Below is a summary of the amounts allocated and distributed:

<sup>15</sup> The total amount allocated in the Fifth Allocation Motion was \$704,395,951.58. Between the filing of that motion and the Fifth Interim Distribution date, an additional \$52,142,279.87 was recovered and included in the numerator.

<sup>16</sup> This represents the amount allocated to the Customer Fund in the Supplemental Sixth Allocation and Sixth Interim Distribution Motion filed on October 20, 2015. The original Sixth Allocation and Sixth Interim Motion filed on April 15, 2015 did not allocate any additional recoveries to the Customer Fund; the Trustee simply re-allocated \$1,448,717,625.26 of funds that had previously been allocated to the Customer Fund for the Time-Based Damages Reserve.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>Reserve From Previous Allocations<sup>17</sup></b>	<b>Funds Received After Allocation Used for Interim Distribution</b>	<b>Amount Available for Distribution</b>	<b>Allocation for Allowed Claims<sup>18</sup></b>	<b>Allocation for Deemed Determined Claims<sup>19</sup></b>	<b>SIPC Subrogation</b>	<b>Other Reserves<sup>20</sup></b>
1	\$2.618 billion	N/A	\$85.078 million	\$2.703 billion	\$888.186 million	\$50.153 million	\$8.918 million	\$1.756 billion
2	\$5.501 billion	\$1.756 billion	\$620.353 million	\$7.878 billion	\$6.458 billion	\$365.693 million	\$83.827 million	\$970.493 million
3	\$1.198 billion	\$970.493 million	\$87.278 million	\$2.256 billion	\$904.368 million	\$51.449 million	\$15.934 million	\$1.284 billion
4	\$477.504 million	\$1.284 billion	\$58.789 million	\$1.820 billion	\$608.385 million	\$34.656 million	\$11.518 million	\$1.166 billion
5	\$756.538 million <sup>21</sup>	\$1.166 billion	\$50.710 million	\$1.973 billion	\$524.309 million	\$29.893 million	\$10.405 million	\$1.408 billion
6	\$345.472 million <sup>22</sup>	\$1.408 billion	\$152.740 million	\$1.907 billion	\$1.573 billion	\$90.039 million	\$37.617 million	\$206.057 million
7	\$247.013 million	\$206.057 million	\$24.126 million	\$477.196 million	\$247.715 million	\$14.222 million	\$6.679 million	\$208.580 million
8	\$342.322 million	\$208.580 million	\$31.964 million	\$582.866 million	\$327.702 million	\$18.843 million	\$9.346 million	\$226.976 million
9	\$1.303 billion	\$226.976 million	\$33.150 million	\$1.563 billion	\$719.297 million	\$41.478 million	\$22.637 million	\$779.579 million
10	\$515.974 million	\$779.579 million	\$23.769 million	\$1.319 billion	\$514.199 million	\$29.741 million	\$17.786 million	\$757.597 million
11	\$988.770 million	\$757.597 million	\$0	\$578.410 million	\$370.791 million	\$21.524 million	\$14.211 million	\$171.884 million
12	\$74.325 million	\$171.884 million	\$42.334 million	\$288.543 million	\$232.373 million	\$13.514 million	\$9.351 million	\$33.306 million
13	\$128.570 million	\$33.306 million	\$28.154 million	\$147.696 million	\$113.047 million	\$6.582 million	\$4.696 million	\$23.371 million
14	\$44.229 million	\$23.371 million	\$16.960 million	\$56.406 million	\$49.553 million	\$2.888 million	\$2.105 million	\$1.859 million

<sup>17</sup> Reserve from Previous Allocations represents amounts that were reserved in prior allocations.

<sup>18</sup> Allocation for Allowed Claims represents the amount allocated for claims that have been allowed.

<sup>19</sup> Allocation for Deemed Determined Claims represents amounts allocated and reserved for claims that are currently in litigation with the Trustee.

<sup>20</sup> Other Reserves represents all monies that are reserved for various issues.

<sup>21</sup> The total amount allocated in the Fifth Allocation Motion was \$704,395,951.58. Between the filing of that motion and the Fifth Interim Distribution date, an additional \$52,142,279.87 was recovered and included in the numerator.

<sup>22</sup> This represents the amount allocated to the Customer Fund in the Supplemental Sixth Allocation and Sixth Interim Distribution Motion filed on October 20, 2015. The original Sixth Allocation and Sixth Interim Motion filed on April 15, 2015 did not allocate any additional recoveries to the Customer Fund; the Trustee simply re-allocated \$1,448,717,625.26 of funds that had previously been allocated to the Customer Fund for the Time-Based Damages Reserve.

28. As reflected in the table above, the amount reserved through the Fourteenth Interim Distribution is \$1,859,129.80. This previously reserved amount, plus the \$66,689,750.89 that the Trustee seeks to allocate in this Motion, less the \$16,959,602.85 received after the fourteenth allocation motion and used for the fourteenth interim distribution, constitutes the total amount available for distribution. Therefore, the total amount available for the Fifteenth Interim Distribution will be \$51,589,277.84. Of this amount, \$1,768,343.65 must be held in reserve for non-liquid asset recoveries related to certain settlements, leaving a total of \$49,820,934.19 available for distribution.

29. Of the \$49,820,934.19 numerator, \$45,230,109.57 will be distributed as part of the Fifteenth Interim Distribution to allowed accounts, and SIPC subrogation<sup>23</sup> for allowed accounts in the amount of \$1,943,920.73 will be released to SIPC. For deemed determined accounts, \$2,637,313.78 will be reserved. (Sehgal Aff. ¶ 13).

30. The Trustee does not seek to allocate any funds to the General Estate at this time.

**i. Assets in Trustee's Possession as of October 31, 2023**

31. The Form SIPC 17 completed by the Trustee each month lists all of the recoveries and assets in the Trustee's possession. In the Trustee's Form SIPC 17 for the period ending on October 31, 2023 ("October 31 SIPC 17 Form"), attached hereto as Exhibit A, the Trustee reports that he has recovered \$14,607,690,156.99.<sup>24</sup> These funds were primarily derived from the following sources: (a) the transfer of BLMIS bank accounts to the BLMIS estate; (b) the results

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<sup>23</sup> According to the provisions of SIPA, SIPC is reimbursed for its advances to customers once each respective customer claim is fully satisfied.

<sup>24</sup> In addition, the Trustee has in his possession a *de minimis* amount of unliquidated assets.

of pre-litigation and litigation settlements; (c) customer preference recoveries; (d) the sale of assets; (e) refunds; and (f) earnings on the Trustee's investment and money market accounts.

32. To the extent additional settlements are reached and/or become final prior to the entry of an order on this Motion, the Trustee will allocate and distribute those recoveries in accordance with the formula set forth herein.

ii. **Recoveries to the BLMIS Estate Since the Fourteenth Allocation and Fourteenth Interim Distribution**

33. In the Motion on the Fourteenth Allocation and Fourteenth Interim Distribution, the Trustee reported total recoveries of \$44,228,624.89 that were not previously allocated. When combined with prior recoveries, the total recoveries as of the Fourteenth Allocation and Fourteenth Interim Distribution were \$14,541,000,406.10. The Trustee has recovered additional funds for the estate from multiple parties and sources since that time.

34. The Trustee has recovered \$66,689,750.89 since the Fourteenth Allocation and Fourteenth Interim Distribution as a result of settlements, interest income, and other miscellaneous recoveries. (Sehgal Aff. ¶ 10). Therefore, the Trustee seeks approval to allocate the full amount of these recoveries to the Customer Fund.

**D. Determination of Allowable Net Equity Claims & Related Reserves**

35. For distribution purposes, the Customer Fund numerator is only one half of the equation. In order to calculate each customer's pro rata share of customer property, the Trustee also needs to establish the denominator, or the amount of allowable net equity claims.

36. If the Trustee had determined all customer claims and his determinations were final either through the passage of time or judicial determination, the denominator would simply equal the aggregate amount of allowed claims. Because the Trustee seeks to make a Fifteenth Interim Distribution prior to a final determination of all customer claims and certain disputes are pending,



the Trustee cannot use as a denominator equal to the amount of allowed claims as of this date. Doing so could result in an uneven distribution to customers, in violation of SIPA and the Bankruptcy Code, because there could be insufficient funds to distribute to claimants whose claims are allowed in the future. Instead, the Trustee must project as to the amount of all allowable net equity claims and establish sufficient reserves to ensure that all possibly eligible claimants receive a pro rata distribution, should their claims be allowed. In order to do so, he must maintain sufficient reserves.

37. Certain accountholders decided against filing a claim in this proceeding, even though they may have had allowable net equity claims. The statutory bar date to file claims was July 2, 2009. SIPA § 78fff-2(a)(3). Thus, a failure to file a claim by that date means that there is no distribution that can be made to these accounts. No reserves are maintained for these accounts.

38. Further, certain accountholders have entered into final settlements not contingent on the net equity dispute. No reserves are maintained for these accounts.

**IV. CALCULATION OF PRO RATA SHARE OF CUSTOMER FUND FOR FIFTEENTH ALLOCATION AND FIFTEENTH INTERIM DISTRIBUTION**

39. SIPA § 78fff-2(c)(1) establishes, in pertinent part, that a customer is to receive his ratable share from the fund of customer property. To the extent the customer's share has been fully satisfied through an advance of funds by SIPC, SIPC steps into the shoes of the customer as subrogee and receives that customer's share of customer property. In that manner, a customer does not receive a double recovery on his claim that was already fully satisfied by the SIPC advance.

40. As set forth above and in the Sehgal Affidavit, the Trustee proposes to allocate \$66,689,750.89 to the Customer Fund at this time and release \$45,230,109.57 for distribution.

41. Of the \$49,820,934.19 numerator, \$45,230,109.57 will be distributed as part of the Fifteenth Interim Distribution to allowed accounts and SIPC subrogation for allowed accounts in the amount of \$1,943,920.73 will be released to SIPC. For deemed determined accounts, \$2,637,313.78 will be reserved. (Sehgal Aff. ¶ 13).

42. The Denominator is \$20,583,595,000.45. (Sehgal Aff. ¶ 16). To determine the percentage of each allowed customer net equity claim that can be satisfied from the Customer Fund, the Net Customer Fund is divided by the Denominator, resulting in the following percentage:

$$\frac{\$49,820,934.19}{\$20,583,595,000.45} = 0.242\%$$

43. Under this scenario, a total of 772 accounts will receive a distribution up to 0.242% of their net equity claims. (Sehgal Aff. ¶ 17). Of these 772 accounts (relating to 903 claims), no additional accounts will become fully satisfied. Therefore, the total number of fully satisfied account holders will remain 1,517 (all accounts with an allowed claim amount of up to \$1,707,339.85). Seven hundred seventy-two accounts will remain partially satisfied and will be entitled to participate in future distributions. (*Id.*).

44. An additional seven accounts (relating to 11 claims) that are currently “deemed determined” could receive a distribution if and when the status of their claims moves from “deemed determined” to allowed. (*Id.* ¶ 18). One of the seven accounts would be fully satisfied by the SIPC advance. The remaining six accounts would receive both a SIPC advance and a distribution in accordance with the Trustee’s Motion and the Fifteenth Allocation and Fifteenth Interim Distribution. (*Id.*). None of the remaining six accounts would be fully satisfied by the First through Fifteenth Interim Distributions. (*Id.*)

45. SIPC is entitled to receive repayment as to any given customer to the extent the customer's claim was fully repaid by a combination of the SIPC advance and the Trustee's distributions. *See In re Bell & Beckwith*, 104 B.R. 842, 852-55 (Bankr. N. D. Ohio 1989), *aff'd*, 937 F.2d 1104 (6th Cir. 1991). SIPC, as subrogee, is entitled to receive partial repayment of its cash advances to the Trustee pursuant to SIPA § 78fff-3(a)(1). To date, a total of \$254,750,976.03 in subrogation payments have been made to SIPC. Based on the "net loser" accounts that have been allowed and have returned a signed Partial Assignment and Release (PAR) through this Fifteenth Interim Distribution, SIPC's subrogation claim is \$1,943,920.73. This amount will be released to SIPC.

46. Unless otherwise noted, the numbers contained herein are based on recoveries and claims allowed as of October 31, 2023. To the extent additional claims are allowed, the Trustee will distribute funds consistent with the formulas set forth in this Motion.

**A. No Interim Distribution for General Estate Claims**

47. Under SIPA § 78fff(e), funds from the general estate satisfy the administrative costs and expenses of a Debtor's estate and a liquidation proceeding. To the extent the general estate is insufficient, SIPC makes advances to the Trustee for the payment of such costs and expenses. SIPA § 78fff-3(b)(2). All administrative advances made by SIPC are recoverable from the general estate under section 507(a)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code. SIPA §§ 78eee(b)(5)(E), 78fff(e). The general estate is distributed in accordance with section 726 of the Bankruptcy Code, with section 507(a)(2) expenses receiving second priority. SIPA § 78fff(e).

48. As noted previously, the Trustee has received 428 timely and 22 untimely filed secured priority and unsecured non-priority general creditor claims totaling approximately \$1.7 billion. The claimants include vendors, taxing authorities, employees, and customers filing claims on non-customer proof of claim forms. Of these 450 claims, 95 are general creditor claims and

49 are broker-dealer claims which together total approximately \$265.4 million of the \$1.7 billion. Inasmuch as the Trustee proposes to allocate no assets to the General Estate, there are no funds in the General Estate from which to make a distribution to general creditors at this time. Accordingly, “[no] purpose would be served” by the examination of or the institution of actions seeking to disallow such claims. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 704(5). If the Trustee is able to fully satisfy the net equity claims of the BLMIS customers, any funds remaining will be allocated to the general estate and distributed in the order of priority established in Bankruptcy Code § 726 and SIPA § 78fff(e). All BLMIS customers who filed claims—whether their net equity customer claims were allowed or denied—may be deemed to be general creditors of the BLMIS estate. The Trustee is working diligently on behalf of all creditors and will seek to satisfy all creditor claims.

**V. MISCELLANEOUS**

**A. Notice**

49. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 2002(a)(6), 2002(f)(8), and 2002(h), the Trustee has given notice of the hearing on the Trustee’s Motion by first class mail, postage prepaid, to all claimants that filed a claim. Pursuant to the Order Establishing Notice Procedures (ECF No. 4650), the Trustee has given notice of the hearing on the Trustee’s Motion via email and/or U.S. Mail to (i) SIPC; (ii) the SEC; (iii) the Internal Revenue Service; (iv) the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York; and (v) all persons who have filed notices of appearance in the BLMIS proceeding. The Trustee believes that no further notice need be given of this or any further matter in the proceeding.

**B. Record Date**

50. The Fifteenth Interim Distribution will be made to all record holders as of January 24, 2024.

**VI. CONCLUSION**

51. This Motion and the relief requested by the Trustee are consistent with the policy and purposes underlying SIPA and are in the best interests of the customers of BLMIS, the Estate, and its creditors.

52. No prior application for the relief sought herein has been made to this or any other Court.

**WHEREFORE**, the Trustee respectfully requests that this Court enter an order  
(a) approving (i) the proposed Fifteenth Allocation of Property to the Customer Fund and to the  
General Estate and (ii) the proposed Fifteenth Interim Distribution of the Customer Fund; and  
(b) granting such other and further relief as may be deemed just and proper.

Dated: December 8, 2023  
New York, New York

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David J. Sheehan

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